Reduction in customs duty on aluminium

2317. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several representations and appeals from various secondary manufacturers' association, individual units. MPs and some Ministers have been received by Ministry of Finance for abolition/ reduction of customs duty on import of aluminium; and

(b) if so. what are the compelling reasons for not-reducing customs duty on aluminium by considering these representations and recommendations for the benefit of down strem aluminium industry suffering trauma since long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Some representations have been received for reduction/ abolition of customs duty on aluminium.

(b) The import duty rates are decided after taking into account all relevant factors, and the Government has decided to maintain the'existing duty on aluminium.

Reservations for SC/ST/OBC in Ministry of Finance

2318. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIPJYO:

MISS FRIDA TOPNO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as provided under para 11 of Explanatory' Notes to DoPT OM No. 36012/2/96-Estt (Res) dated the 2nd July. 1997 persons belonging to SC/ST and OBCs selected on merit are not required to be shown against the quota of vacancies/posts reserved for their communities; and

(b) if so. the number of persons belonging to SC/ST and OBCs selected/ recruited/promoted on merit to different categories of services and not counted against the reserved quota of vacancies/posts' for their communities during the iast three years under the Ministry of Finance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Department of Personnel & Training persons belonging to communities for whom reservation has been made, but who are appointed on merit and not owing to reservation should not be shown against reserved points They ,will occupy the unreserved points. No centralised data is maintained in case of persons belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs recruited/promoted on merit under various offices of the Ministry of Finance.